

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Chris Martin and Andy Perchlik; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Fire Fighters Tim Morris, Tom Maclay and Tim Maclay; Visitors Paul and Barbara Sicely; Ed Stanak; Jim Brimblecombe; Ernie Penley (via speakerphone); Pat Martin (via speakerphone); Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette)

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Andrew Perchlik

Speed Patrol: Paul and Barbara Sicely came to ask the Board to consider hiring a Sheriff to patrol the Groton Forest Road. They have witnessed close calls between horses and speeding cars, and they have seen cars racing. They mentioned that there are no signs indicating that there are campgrounds, recreation areas, etc. Bobbi noted that the speed limit is 50mph near the homes, but 40mph in the area where there are no homes.

Chris explained that the speed patrols are at the deputy's discretion, and usually done as overtime. The Board will call the State Police and the Sheriff's Department and ask for more coverage, but they suggested that residents do the same, because more phone calls might mean more attention. The Board discussed other options as well, including hiring police officers from other towns.

Chris has also received complaints about speeding on Bunker Hill Circle. The Board will look into lowering the speed limit.

Memorial Service: Ed Stanak addressed the Board to discuss the logistics for John Warshow's memorial service. Between 200 and 500 people are expected. Those present discussed logistics with Ernie Penley and Pat Martin, including the location of the tent and where to park cars.

Winter Sand: Bobbi informed the Board that Ken Davis complained that the Board did not put the sand out to bid. Bobbi explained to him that the Selectboard chose the sand from Gravel Construction based on the Road Crew's experience.

Tax Rate: The Selectboard set the tax rates at 0.6567 for the municipal rate and 0.0056 for the local agreement rate. Bobbi noted that overall taxes will be slightly lower than last year. The Board did not waive the late-filed homestead penalty.

Vacancy: The Board has four potential candidates: Laurie Colgan, Rich Phillips, Dwight Baker, and Tom Rus. John had asked Rich Phillips to fill in for him. Chris has talked to Rich and he is willing to do it but he would need to back off the work that he is doing for the Energy Committee. He would not run again at Town Meeting. The Board tabled the appointment until the next meeting.

Change of Date: The Board will meet July 28 instead of August 4.

Stranahan Bike Path: Jim Brimblecombe walked the location that has been flagged. There are still locations where the path crosses tubing. The location doesn't change the concerns that he has about liability. He also questioned how often he would be expected to walk the lines to see if trees have fallen on the mainlines; downed trees would lower the height of the tubing. The Board agreed that the lease could be amended to reflect that the town accepts the liability that results from the project. The Board feels that the sugarmaker should be held harmless as a result of the bike path, and the bike club will have to bear the cost of changes to the tubing system.

Bus Shelter: The Town had a grant for a Park & Ride. GMTA offered a bus shelter at no cost, but now the Town has been told that they are going to use our grant to pay for the shelter. Bobbi notified them that the Town did not agree to use the grant to pay for the shelter. Andy will follow up with them.

Illegal Dumping: Bobbi has received complaints that someone has dumped trash on John Fowler Road, and someone was observed dumping a 5-gallon bucket of what looked like sewage into the river from the property on SASS Ave. She has notified ANR Enforcement and the Health Officer.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: The Board approved the most recent changes to the hazard mitigation plan.

Covered Bridge Mowing: The Board has received a complaint about mowing at the covered bridge too early in the morning. The person doing the mowing has told the Board that someone threw bricks and stones on the lawn just after he mowed it. The Board does not have a problem with 7am as a starting time.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. The Board approved the minutes of the June 30, 2015 with minor changes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the July 14, 2015 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
